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12 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director of Personnel
SUBJECT : Comments on the Summer Intern Program

1. The Summer Intern Program has proven to be probably the most meaningful practical experience I have thus far encountered. Perhaps the greatest benefit I derived from my activities this summer was an insight into the mysteries which had been clouding the true image of the agency from my mind. The veil of secrecy which is maintained concerning the functions and purposes of the agency tends to immediately alienate people on college campuses. I really feel that this is the major problem the agency must come to grips with regarding its public relations work aimed at young people. There must exist some information, relevant to these matters, which falls below the level of classified material and can be presented in a straightforward, understandable form to students. That is why it would seem to me that the briefings were a valuable part of the intern program. Now, at least I will have the background to use as a weapon in combating the evils of ignorance when I return to Syracuse in September. It is a shame that preconceived notions may overpower an informed defense of the agency.

2. The ONE briefing was particularly interesting and enjoyable, because I didn't get the feeling that we were being "talked down to" by a speaker, as in some of the other meetings, but rather that we were brought a little closer to the actual operation and decision-making process of that office by participating with the staff in the discussions.

3. With respect to the actual work in which I was engaged at GD/BGI, I found it to be both educational and exciting. I do have some criticism, however. Although the project which I was working on was worthwhile from the viewpoint of experience and basic occupational training, upon reflection it seems to me that I would have preferred to have been involved in more varied exercises. Perhaps I could have been assigned something involving some actual research and reporting of conclusions. Nevertheless,

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the work was fascinating. In addition, the assistance of the other geographers in my office proved invaluable, in that I was enabled to absorb some, even if only a small percentage, of their experience and specialized knowledge. There were no questions I had that went unanswered.

4. I should also mention that the excellent library of unclassified Soviet source materials located in our branch, along with the advice and assistance of some of my co-workers in the office, have provided, and will continue to provide me with a strong base for the thesis which I am preparing to research this year at school.

5. In response to your interest in our circumstances outside of working hours, let me inform you of my living conditions. I was fortunate enough to find a very comfortable and convenient location, not far from the office in Rosslyn, by merely scanning the bulletin board at Headquarters. I shared a modern, two-bedroom furnished apartment with three other young men, two of whom work for the agency. We each paid only \$47.50 per month for rent and kept our other expenses at a minimum as well. The apartment house is located at [redacted] Arlington, and is operated by Swansen Realty. Many young people, some of them working for the agency, live in the apartments in this area. Although short term leases are not available, people are constantly seeking roommates. Bulletin boards are the best bet for finding these, but your office might do well to circulate a questionnaire around the organization to find people seeking summer roommates.

6. I have only one significant regret regarding this summer's experiences, and that is that I have perhaps been unable to put as much into my work as I have gotten out of it. Many of the courses and academic pursuits connected with Soviet geography are yet to follow in my senior year. Thus I actually came on duty with a very limited foreknowledge of the subject matter. However, I am appreciative of the fact that much of what I have observed and absorbed, aside from the classified information, both general and very specific, will undoubtedly provide me with a more-than-ample basis for my further studies in this area.

7. I do hope I will be able to return next summer and, at that time, to contribute a considerably greater amount of skill and knowledge to my work, in an effort to repay the agency for what I have received in training and experience.